



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10

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OFFICE OF
ECOSYSTEMS,
TRIBAL AND PUBLIC
AFFAIRS

August 12, 2013

NASA Wallops Flight Facility
PFRR EIS – Joshua Bundick, Manager
Mailstop: 250.W
Wallops Island, Virginia 23337

Re: EPA comments on the NASA Sounding Rockets Program at the Poker Flat Research Range (PFRR), Alaska Final Environmental Impact Statement, EPA Project #11-017-NAS.

Dear Mr. Bundick:

Thank you for the opportunity to review the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Sounding Rockets Program at the Poker Flat Research Range in interior Alaska (CEQ # 20130204). We have reviewed the EIS in accordance with our responsibilities under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act and the National Environmental Policy Act.

We previously gave an LO (Lack of Objections) rating to the Draft EIS and suggested the selection of Alternative 4-Maximum Cleanup Search and Recovery with Restricted Trajectories due to the minimization of potential impacts to Wild and Scenic River segments and the Mollie Beattie Wilderness Area. We also recognized that all action alternatives resulted in relatively minor impacts, with the exception of the generation of solid waste.

The Final EIS has identified Alternative 1-Environmentally Responsible Search and Recovery, which does incorporate extensive efforts to minimize and properly manage/retrieve waste, and minimizes impacts to other resources. We also encouraged continued communication with interested stakeholders, particularly nearby residents and area users; we note that your agency is continuing to do so. We believe this continued communication will ensure a high retrieval rate of rocket waste from the impact areas. Because Alternative 1 does not result in significant impacts, with reasonable mitigation that has been identified in the EIS, we have no further comments to offer at this time.

Again, we appreciate the opportunity to offer comments on the Final EIS. Please contact me at (206) 553-1601 or by email at reichgott.christine@epa.gov, or you may contact Jennifer Curtis of my staff in Anchorage at (907) 271-6324 or at curtis.jennifer@epa.gov with any questions you have regarding our comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ch B Reichgott", followed by a small "for" written in blue ink.

Christine B. Reichgott, Manager
Environmental Review and Sediments Management Unit